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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
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Working Group II
Item 4 (c) of provisional agenda

PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/228 AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS,

PROMOTE THE SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

(Annex III)

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## Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference

### INTRODUCTION

The text in this document represents the final text as adopted by Working Group II after the informal consultations on agenda item 4 (c) (ref. document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.19/Add.2) during the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Furthermore the Secretary-General of the Conference was also requested by the Preparatory Committee, according to resolution 3/23, to submit to it, at its fourth session, document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.19/Add.2, as revised during the informal consultation at the third session.

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ANNEX III

[PROGRAMME AREA

Promote the safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes through international agreements.

Basis for action

In many parts of the world the amounts of radioactive wastes, including those from nuclear power units, medical centres, research institutes, industrial facilities, mining operations, etc., are growing, [particularly in industrialized countries], their safe and environmentally sound management, including disposal, is critical, given their characteristics.

Objective

To ensure that radioactive wastes are safely managed and disposed of, with a view to protect human health and the environment.

Activities

Further development of international regulations

1. [To promote policies and practical measures to prevent and minimize generation of radioactive wastes.]

2. [To promote research on transmutation of highly radioactive wastes and the development of environmentally sound technologies in this area.]

3. Governments should strengthen their efforts to implement the Code of Practice for International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, and, under the auspices of IAEA, keep the question of [the control of] such movements under active review, [including the desirability of concluding a legally binding instrument,] or [and work towards a target date for a legally binding convention] [including protocols on liability, compensation and compulsory insurance].

4. [Governments should invite the London Dumping Convention to replace the current voluntary moratorium on disposal of low-level radioactive wastes at sea by a legally binding ban on such practice] or [Governments should encourage the London Dumping Convention to expedite work to complete studies on replacing the current voluntary moratorium on disposal of low-level radioactive wastes at sea taking into account the precautionary approach, with a view to take a well informed decision on this issue.]

5. [Governments and international organizations should not allow the disposal of high, intermediate and low-level radioactive wastes into, under and next to the seabed.]

6. Governments should respect the aims of the Bamako Convention and other relevant regional conventions prohibiting the import of all hazardous wastes, including radioactive wastes.]

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